



City of Seattle  
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor



Patricia McInturff, Director

## **News Release**

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### **Free and low-cost preschool slots still available**

SEATTLE — Seattle preschool programs are now enrolling 4-year-olds from low-to moderate-income families.

Seattle Step Ahead and the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) still have free or reduced-cost spaces available for 375 children at 22 sites in southeast and southwest Seattle this school year.

“These preschools help children get ready for kindergarten academically, socially and physically,” said Patricia McInturff, director of the Seattle Human Services Department. “The earliest years of a child’s life are critical to developing the skills and the love for learning that lead to academic success.”

To be eligible, a family must live in Seattle and have a child who will have turned 4 by August 31, 2006. For ECEAP, a family of four earning up to \$22,000 per year is eligible, and for Step Ahead, a family of four earning up to \$60,000 annually is eligible.

Step Ahead is funded by the Seattle Families and Education Levy, and ECEAP is funded by the State of Washington. For more information about these programs — locations, eligibility and applications — call 206-386-1050.

“Our preschools involve parents, and honor a wide diversity of cultures and languages,” McInturff said. “We encourage parents who don’t think they can afford preschool to contact us right away.”

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